

**WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2015**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the Washington County Commission was called to order by Chairman Alan D. Gardner at 4:00 p.m. on November 17, 2015, in the Washington County Commission Chambers, 197 East Tabernacle St. George, Utah. Those in attendance were Chairman Alan D. Gardner, Commissioner Victor Iverson, Commissioner Zachary Renstrom, County Administrator Dean Cox, Deputy County Attorney Eric Clarke, and Deputy County Clerk Nicholle M. Felshaw.

**INVOCATION BY:** Alex Wilkie, Retired Baptist Minister

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY:** Marti Bigbie, Air Force Veteran

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the Commission for approval. The Consent Portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any Commissioner wishes to remove an item from the Consent Portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the Regular Agenda.

- Consideration of Auditor-Approved Claims for Payment for October 21, 2015, through November 17, 2015
- Consideration of Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2015, September 1, 2015, September 15, 2015, October 6, 2015 and October 20, 2015; and Special Commission Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2015, September 10, 2015 and October 29, 2015
- Consideration of Administrative Adjustments: Real Property (attached)
- Consideration of Administrative Adjustments: Personal Property (attached)
- Consideration of Applications for Property Tax Abatement: Renee Bouineau, A/N 0134059; Jeanne Cannata, A/N 0497001; Douglas & Heidi Cook, A/N 791671; Harold & Lelah Duke, A/N 0699820; Juanita Dumm, A/N 471048; Francisca Gunn, A/N 0473465, Sarah Humphries, A/N 221062; Tim & Barbara King, A/N 754617; Jerry & Sheila McCall, A/N 0503006; Bobby & Amie Pendle, A/N 704513; Donald & Ora Mai Pendleton, A/N 0049901; Robert & Autumn Reid, A/N 0311624; Mindy Sullivan, A/N 223332; Salvador & Consecpcion Vazquez, A/N 0493083; James & Julie Vaught, A/N 437155; Doug & Barbara Woodin, A/N 0754203; Paul & Lila Ellertson, A/N 0473317
- Consideration of Approval of Wildland Fire Budget between Washington County and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands for Calendar Year 2016

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Renstrom and carried

**by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**PRESENTATION: HOSPITAL EXPANSIONS AND PROGRAMS - STEVE CAPLAN**

Governing Board Chairman of Dixie Regional Medical Center Steve Caplan was accompanied by: Communications Director for Dixie Regional and Southwest Regional Intermountain Health Care Terri Draper and Chief Financial Officer for Dixie Regional and Southwest Regional Intermountain Healthcare Steve Vance.

Mr. Caplan distributed a handout of the 2014 Statistics and Accomplishments for Dixie Regional Medical Center. Dixie Regional Medical Center is in the process of obtaining Level II Trauma status which allows the majority of patients to be treated in-house rather than being transported outside the County for healthcare. Dixie Regional is the largest private employer in the County, has the largest volunteer hours than any other hospital in the Intermountain Healthcare system, is the number one cardiovascular hospital in the United States, and donated over thirty-five million dollars (\$35 million) in charity healthcare services in 2014.

Dixie Regional Medical Center has the leading genomics based advanced cancer care treatment in the world, which is a new approach to treating stage four cancer patients. This particular cancer treatment allows the analysis of tissue samples to the DNA level in order to identify mutations in the DNA. The doctors can then determine the most effective drug for treating the tumor. This treatment extends and improves the quality of life, has fewer side effects and costs the same as other cancer treatments.

Mr. Caplan then spoke concerning the Dixie Regional Medical Center expansion project. This will consolidate and relocate all the clinical services including: the women and children programs, behavioral medicine and oncology, from the 400 East campus to the River Road campus. Two new patient towers will also be constructed at the River Road Campus along with an additional building to accommodate the cancer care programs. With this expansion project, Dixie Regional Medical Center is approaching one (1) million square feet of healthcare space. It was also mentioned that although several options have been considered, nothing has been finalized with the utilization of the 400 East campus.

In 2016 Dixie Regional Medical Center will be celebrating forty (40) years of partnership with Intermountain Healthcare. Mr. Caplan expressed that this expansion project will cost three hundred million dollars (\$300 million). Intermountain Healthcare hopes the

community will be generous and work together in raising ten percent (10%) of the construction cost of the project.

(See attached handout)

#### **EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT: SHERIFF CORY PULSIPHER**

Washington County Sheriff Cory Pulsipher reported on Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts from October 21, 2015 through November 16, 2015 stating that there were six (6) call outs for a total of 144.5 man hours. The SAR team has conducted ninety-three (93) searches so far this year.

(See attached SAR report for additional details)

#### **PRESENTATION: PRELIMINARY 2016 WASHINGTON COUNTY BUDGET: KIM HAFEN**

Washington County Clerk Auditor Kim Hafen presented the proposed 2016 budget. The 2016 budget contains a two percent (2%) wage increase for each qualified employee, as well as a few other internal equity changes to salaries recommended by the Human Resources Department. A new library branch in Hildale has also been proposed in the 2016 budget and in regards to Washington County staffing the budget includes a new Mental Health Officer in the Sheriff's Office, along with six (6) new clerical positions, being funded by a State Grant. The County Attorney's Office will have a new Land-use Attorney added as well as a new Children's Justice Center Forensic Interviewer.

Mr. Hafen explained that there will be new Funds added to the 2016 budget which includes: a new (Fund 30) for the Recreation, Arts and Parks (RAP) Tax and a Sports and Outdoors (Fund 31) that is currently in the creation mode with some events from the Tourism Office being transferred to this new division.

Mr. Hafen stated that the proposed 2016 budget is approximately one million dollars (\$1 million) more than the 2015 budget. The biggest contributor is the Local Option Sales Tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (1/4%) and is the second biggest single source of revenue in the General Fund.

The B & C Road Fund revenue will increase due to the five cent (\$.05) per gallon increase in fuel tax starting January 2016. Mr. Hafen continued by stating that the County Public Works budget is significantly higher than the previous year, however, the County will be receiving a State Grant to do a maintenance project on Old Highway 91. The County will fund only ten percent (10%) of that particular project, with a State Grant funding the balance.

The Library's main revenue comes from property taxes so there is little flexibility in terms of revenue and at some point it will be necessary to look at ways to increase their revenue as needs increase.

The Council on Aging will be replacing carpet in the St. George Center in 2016 and doing a few minor renovations at the Hurricane and Enterprise Center.

The Tourism Office is mainly funded by the Transient Room Tax and as this tax has continued to grow, a new Tourism Related Projects line item has been added. These funds will be distributed back to venues that are generators of the Transient Room Tax for added improvements to their establishments.

The County Recreation Fund is generated from restaurant and lease taxes and incorporates the County Fair and Regional Park, Confluence Park and the Shooting Sports Park which was added for 2016.

Mr. Hafen also commented that other than what has been previously mentioned, there is not a significant difference in funding, with the exception of the Flood Control, comprised of Washington City, the City of St. George, and Santa Clara. The majority of this increase is due to debris basin work around the County but is being supplemented by National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) revenue. Also, the Corridor Preservation Fund at one point was held at the State level but has now been given to the County to manage.

Mr. Hafen closed his presentation by mentioning that over the course of the last several years the County has been able to pay down a significant portion of County debt along with an early pay-off of the 2004 Library Bond which will result in tax payers seeing a decrease on next year's tax bill.

The proposed 2016 budget will be available to the public upon request in the Clerk's Office and will also be posted on the County's website.

Mr. Hafen will return at the December 15, 2015 meeting with the Final Budget for approval.

(See attached for a copy of the Washington County proposed 2016 Budget in its entirety)

#### **PURCHASE REQUESTS: MARK BLANCH**

Convention and Tourism Office, vacation planner print ..... (\$52,000.00)

*All purchases are budgeted, bonded, or paid for through grant funds.*

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Renstrom to Approve the Purchase Requests. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-1055-O, AN ORDINANCE REZONING A CERTAIN PORTION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY FROM A-20 ZONE TO A-10 ZONE HEREINAFTER FULLY DESCRIBED IN THIS ORDINANCE**

Deputy County Attorney Eric Clarke stated that this is in regards to rezoning a single piece of property in New Harmony from an Agriculture-20 to an Agriculture-10 acre size which allows the property owner to utilize his property for development.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Ordinance No. R-2015-1055-O, an Ordinance Rezoning a Certain Portion of Washington County from A-20 Zone to A-10 Zone Hereinafter Fully Described in the Ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Renstrom and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 2015-1056-O, AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF A CLASS D COUNTY ROAD KNOWN AS DRY CREEK ROAD**

Mr. Clarke explained that this pertains to a Class D road known as Dry Creek Road, which is a road that the County does not maintain, located by Zion National Park. At one point it was two (2) pieces of property owned by School Trust Land (SITLA) property. SITLA has sold one of the pieces and is in the process of selling the other piece of property. A small sliver of this road was on the Zion National Park boundary but the Park recently closed it. The property owner is proposing to reroute the road so it is all on private property. In doing so, the County will vacate their portion of road on Mr. Steven's property and in return Mr. Steven's will give the County a public easement on the new road. This will allow for a safer road and for the County to maintain access to that road.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Renstrom to Adopt Ordinance No. R-2015-1056-O, an Ordinance Vacating a Portion of a Class D County Road known as Dry Creek Road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 2015-1057-O, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPERSEDING WASHINGTON COUNTY CODE TITLE 1,**

**CHAPTER 14, SECTION 2,4,5,6 AND 7 IN ORDER TO DEFINE AND DESIGNATE THE BOUNDARIES OF ELECTION PRECINCTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH**

Mr. Hafen stated per State Code, voting precincts cannot have more than 1,250 voters. In preparation for next year it was determined that two (2) precincts will have more voters than State Code allows which includes: Hurricane 57 (HU57) and Washington 68 (WA68). In order to be in compliance Hurricane 57 (HU57) was divided to create Hurricane 60 (HU60) and Washington 65 (HU65), Washington 67 (HU67), and Washington 68 (HU68) was modified to create Washington 70 (WA70).

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Ordinance No. R-2015-1057-O, an Ordinance Amending and Superseding Washington County Code Title 1, Chapter 14, Section 2,4,5,6, and 7 in Order to Define and Designate the Boundaries of Election Precincts in Washington County, State of Utah . Motion seconded by Commissioner Renstrom and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1953, A RESOLUTION PLEDGING FUNDS TO THE WESTERN FREEDOM FESTIVAL HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2015**

Chairman Gardner stated that through this resolution Washington County pledged funds contributing to the Western Freedom Festival that was held in Cedar City a few weeks ago.

Commissioner Iverson commented that it is important to celebrate freedom and the western way of life that makes the area desirable for visitors and residents and shows that all local counties are tied in closely with the culture that draws people to this area.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2015-1953, a Resolution Pledging Funds to the Western Freedom Festival Held on October 23, 2015. Motion seconded by Commissioner Renstrom and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1954, A RESOLUTION APPROVING EXECUTION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNTY PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR FUNDING FOR INMATE JAIL SCREENINGS**

Undersheriff Bart Bailey explained that through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) the Sheriff's Office is applying for a County Performance Incentive Program (CPIP) grant for the County Correctional Facility to become a "Hub County Jail" for the purpose of conducting screenings of Washington County inmates as well as inmates of smaller counties. All screenings will be conducted by video at the end of the booking process on individuals with substance abuse and mental illness to determine whether rehabilitation through treatment would be better rather than incarceration. This grant will provide funding for personnel and equipment for the jail screenings.

The subsequent Resolution works in conjunction with this Resolution and establishes memoranda of understanding (MOU) with eleven (11) other counties for correctional facility inmate screenings.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Renstrom to Adopt Resolution No. R-2015-1954, a Resolution Approving Execution of Grant Application to Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice County Performance Incentive Program for Funding for Inmate Jail Screenings and Resolution No. R-2015-1955, a Resolution Approving Eleven Memoranda of Understanding with Eleven Other Counties for the Screening of Correctional Facility Inmates. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1955, A RESOLUTION APPROVING ELEVEN MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ELEVEN OTHER COUNTIES FOR THE SCREENING OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITY INMATES**

*See previous motion.*

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1956, A RESOLUTION APPROVING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS AND WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Habitat Conservation Plan Administrator Robert Sandberg explained that the purpose of this cooperative agreement is to work with the University of Nevada (UNLV), the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWR) in funding a project to provide a revegetation program in the Mohave Desert. This will enhance the habitat and chance for survival of the desert tortoise within the Reserve and combat evasive annuals that create a fire cycle.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2015-1956, a Resolution Approving Cooperative Agreement between**

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Washington County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Renstrom and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1957, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

County Administrator Dean Cox stated that the intent of this Resolution is to update the fee schedule to more accurately set forth actual costs of providing Geographical Information System (GIS) products to the public.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Renstrom to Adopt Resolution No. R-2015-1957, a Resolution Adopting a Geographical Information System (GIS) Fee Schedule for the Washington County Public Works Department. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1958, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED BOARD**

Commissioner Iverson stated that Kent McComb and Jeannine Holt have done an excellent job as Board members and have agreed to be reappointed to the Washington County Noxious Weed Board.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2015-1958, a Resolution Reappointing Kent McComb and Jeannine Holt to the Washington County Noxious Weed Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Renstrom and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1959, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE JUSTICE COURT NOMINATING COMMISSION**

Mr. Cox stated that this Board convenes when the Justice Court Judgeship opens within the County. Michele Mitchell is currently serving on said Board, has done a great job and Mr. Cox recommends Ms. Mitchell be reappointed.



**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Renstrom to Adopt Resolution No. R-2015-1959, a Resolution Reappointing Michele Mitchell to the Justice Court Nominating Commission. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1960, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE EXECUTION OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (UDOT) AND WASHINGTON COUNTY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR STATE DOLLARS FOR OLD HIGHWAY 91 PROJECT S-LC53 (75)**

Public Works Director Ron Whitehead stated that Washington County has been on a Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) priority funding list for approximately three (3) years in regards to rebuilding a section of Old Highway 91. The project has now been approved and Washington County desires to pay for the project utilizing its own funds and then seek reimbursement from State of Utah funds rather than federal funds. Although the percentage of reimbursement costs for State funding is slightly lower, doing so eliminates studies required by federal funding, which in return, saves time and money.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Renstrom to Adopt Resolution No. R-2015-1960, a Resolution Ratifying the Execution of a Cooperative Agreement between the State of Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and Washington County for the Exchange of Federal Dollars for State Dollars for Old Highway 91 Project S0LC53 (75). Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1961, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE HURRICANE VALLEY FIRE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL BOARD**

Hurricane City Fire Chief Tom Kuhlmann stated that the Commission took previous action to dissolve the Leeds Area Special Service District (SSD) and draw the boundaries of the Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District to include Hurricane City, the Leeds Area SSD as well as other unincorporated areas not currently being serviced by fire protection. Washington County has since received certificates of annexation from the Lieutenant Governor and the Hurricane Valley Fire SSD Board has now asked to change from its current configuration to a six (6) member Board consisting of one (1) member from each of the cities served. Mr. Kuhlmann presented letters from each of the cities that included a recommendation of who they would like to have appointed on the governing Board.

Chairman Gardner presented the following recommended names: Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor; Bruce Densley, Virgin Mayor; Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville Mayor; Ken Hooten, LaVerkin Representative; Kevin Trevort, Hurricane Representative; Dean Cox, Washington County Representative.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2015-1961, a Resolution Appointing Members to the Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District Administrative Control Board as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Renstrom and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Gardner, Iverson and Renstrom voting aye.**

**MODIFYING ELECTION POLLING LOCATIONS AND METHODS OF SOME AREAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH: KIM HAFEN**

Mr. Hafen discussed the election polling locations that will change in 2016 that included: Enterprise City, the North Central Fire District, New Harmony town, and the unincorporated area surrounding New Harmony town to move to voting "By Mail"; Hildale to move to a polling location located at the Water Canyon School; and the three (3) Ivins polling locations to be consolidated into one location at the Southern Utah Veteran's Home.

Mr. Hafen discussed the future possibility potentially in 2017 and 2019 for all precincts to vote "By Mail" although there would still be a designated voting center available to accommodate those wanting to continue voting in that manner.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

Chairman Gardner reported that on Monday, November 16, 2015 the County delivered their response to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the Resource Management Plan (RMP). Chairman Gardner thanked County Attorney Brock Belnap and his staff for the tireless work to ensure the County's comments were submitted prior to the deadline. He also thanked the community for their comments and stated that approximately 3654 public comments were sent to the BLM through the Washington County website. Congressman Stewart, and Congressman Bishop have both been very engaged, as well as the senators.

Mr. Clarke reiterated that the County plans on working very closely and staying engaged with the BLM as decisions are made.

**PUBLIC WORKS OR ROAD BUSINESS**

Mr. Whitehead commented that the Road Department is working on the outer line area roads to prepare them for winter storms.

**COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING BUSINESS**

No items were presented.

**HCP BUSINESS**

Habitat Conservation Plan Administrator Robert Sandberg stated that the County, as a facilitator for land acquisition in the reserve, requested bids to write the environmental assessment as part of the requirement to facilitate the land exchange on the Long Valley parcel with the BLM. Six (6) bids were received and Washington County and the BLM are currently in the process of selecting the appropriate candidate that will be able to fulfill the job obligations and criteria that the BLM has set forth to allow the land exchange.

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

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NICHOLLE M. FELSHAW  
DEPUTY CLERK

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ALAN D. GARDNER  
CHAIRMAN